



Developed by a group  
of health care  
professionals through a  
grant from the American  
Red Cross Northern  
California Disaster  
Preparedness Network

# Disaster Tips for People with Medical Needs

In a disaster, people with special medical needs have extra concerns.  
This information will help you and your family prepare for a disaster.

## Medications

- Always have at least a three-day supply of all your medications.
- Store your medications in one location in their original containers.
- Have a list of all of your medications: name of medication, dose, frequency, and the name of the prescribing doctor.

## Medical supplies

- Have an extra three-day supply of any medical supplies you use, such as bandages, ostomy bags, or syringes.

## Electrically powered medical equipment

- For all medical equipment requiring electrical power — beds, breathing equipment, or infusion pumps — check with your medical supply company and get information regarding a back-up power source, such as a battery or generator.

## Oxygen and breathing equipment

- If you use oxygen, have an emergency supply (enough for at least a three-day period).
- Oxygen tanks should be securely braced so they do not fall over. Call your medical supply company regarding bracing instructions.
- If you use breathing equipment, have a three-day supply or more of tubing, solutions, medications, etc.

## Intravenous (IV) and feeding tube equipment

- Know if your infusion pump has battery back-up, and how long it would last in an emergency.
- Ask your home care provider about manual infusion techniques in case of a power outage.
- Have written operating instructions attached to all equipment.

## Emergency bag

- In the event that you have to leave your home, have a bag packed at all times that contains:
  - A medication list.
  - Medical supplies for at least three days.
  - Copies of vital medical papers such as insurance cards, power of attorney, etc.

## People who can help

- An important part of being prepared for a disaster is planning with family, friends and neighbors. Know who could walk to your home to assist you if other means of transportation are unavailable.
- Discuss your disaster plans with your home health care provider.
- Ask your local fire department if they keep a list of people with special medical needs; ask to be included if they do maintain a list.
- Keep a list handy of people who can help and their phone numbers.



WASHINGTON  
MILITARY  
DEPARTMENT

Emergency Management Division  
Camp Murray, WA 98430-5122

Web site: [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)  
253-512-7000; (800) 562-6108



Washington State Department of  
**Health**

PO Box 47890  
Olympia, WA 98504-7890

Web site: [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)  
360-236-4027; (800) 525-0127